



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

As I write this edition of the Administration Message, we are enjoying a few days of warm weather which is a much welcome break from this relatively severe winter. We have just held our March Village Board meeting and there are several matters I want to report on. We have amended our budget for the current fiscal year, adjusted our water rates, and pursued funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA"). We welcome new docents and hope to see you at the East Egg Hunt which will include a magic show immediately following.

Trustees **Bermier, Coleman** and I traveled to Springfield, Illinois on March 4th and 5th to take part in the West Central Municipal Conference legislative drive down. While there we met with our representatives State Senator **Christine Radogno** and State Representative **Jim Durkin**. I also had the opportunity to meet House minority leader **Tom Cross** along with mayors from several other WCMC communities. I voiced my concerns that our representatives not forget non-home rule communities like IHP while trying to address a huge State budgetary short-fall. In particular, I requested that they not cut any revenue-sharing that would otherwise come to our community. In light of the economic downturn our Nation is experiencing, money is tight at all levels of government.

Specifically, at our March meeting, your VBT voted to approve an amended budget to reflect several changes that had a significant impact on the budget we approved last summer. The Amended Budget will show that our financial picture for this fiscal year, like that of the towns around us, the county, the state, and the nation, has fallen in to an undesirable region. Our original 2008/2009 budget, as passed, expected a surplus of \$305. Due to several circumstances beyond our control, the surplus has become a deficit of \$62,595. There were several major items that impacted our budget. Among them were unforeseen legal expenses incurred in connection with defending our Zoning Code and the negotiation of our first ever collective bargaining agreement. I am pleased that these matters are behind us now and we are moving forward to other challenges. However, these and several other expenses including the payment of the deductible on our liability insurance added in excess of \$50,000 in costs to our budget. Our Village liability insurance premium increased by \$15,000. As you know the price of

road salt went through the roof and our "salt" expense increased from \$25,000 to \$75,000. Funding these extraordinary costs required us to cut back spending in other areas.

We coped as best as we could by cutting spending at the Heritage Center where we had budgeted \$40,000 for improvements and painting by completing necessary structural repairs to the building but canceling plans for painting. This saved us \$20,000. We hope to get to the painting next year.

Likewise, plans for a street improvement project were canceled as was our plan to repave the parking lot at the Village Hall. This alone saved us about \$56,000. We did negotiate a new cell tower co-location that added \$7,200 in annual revenues. We continue to plan and take steps to meet these challenges.

The VBT also adjusted the rates you pay for water and sewer to reflect the expected increase in Chicago water and to cover the Village expense for providing everyone with pure, potable water. Our Village water and sewer rates were adjusted upward by about 11% overall. This reflects the 15% increase in the cost of water from Chicago (on top of 15% last year) and passed along to us by the City of Countryside. We also analyzed our expenses in relation to our actual sale (your use) of Village water. Based upon this analysis, we determined that our costs should be pro-rated over the use of 108 million gallons of water instead of the 115 million gallons that we have used in determining our budget. Over the past 5 years we have generally used about 108 million gallons of Lake Michigan water per year except for one year when it was actually about 117 million gallons. This means that our costs in delivering water (hydrant flushing, water main breaks, salaries and equipment expenses attributable to water and sewers) must be recovered from the sale of water. That is, the less water we sell, the higher the rate must be to recoup the costs of water delivery. For example, if our total cost to deliver the water was \$1.00 and we sold 1 gallon, we would need to charge \$1.00 plus the actual cost of the water from Lake Michigan. If we sold 2 gallons, our cost would be the same but could be recouped at 50 cents per gallon plus the actual cost of the water, and so on. So, by reducing our budget projection from 115 million gallons to 108 million gallons (which we will do from now on), the cost per unit of water (i.e. 1000 gallons = 1 unit) must increase.

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This will help eliminate a shortfall in that part of our budget next year attributable to water and sewer expenses. I assure you that water is not used as a revenue generator in the Village. However, we must cover our costs. Paying your water bill based upon usage is a better deal than you get from cable TV or internet service. For those things, we all pay by the month and not by how much we use it or watch it!

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in taking a first major step in obtaining economic stimulus funds ("ARRA") for our Village. After leaving Springfield, I had little hope of realizing stimulus funds in our town. The money seemed to be earmarked for larger projects in other areas that could not possibly benefit IHP. Nevertheless, I resolved to try to obtain something for our wonderful community. We send our taxes to the County, the State, and Washington, why shouldn't we get a return on our investment?? Fortunately, certain stimulus funds earmarked for road maintenance will be administered by the **WCMC** utilizing their guidelines. With the hard work and assistance of **Chief Alonzo**, Village engineer **Dave Vandervelde**, Public Works trustee **Carol Coleman** and superintendent **Ed Santen**, we were able to apply for and receive initial approval for funding to resurface Blackhawk Trail from Plainfield Road to Wolf Road. Under existing WCMC guidelines that limit projects to work on the existing federal system, Blackhawk Trail is the only street in town that is qualified. We will try to qualify more streets but that is in the future. Blackhawk qualifies because it collects traffic from our other streets and feeds it in to Plainfield and Wolf Roads which are a part of the federal system. Thus, even though Blackhawk would not normally be at the top of our current list of streets to repave, the money is available and we have successfully pursued it so far. The total cost of milling and repaving the street is about \$406,000 of which IHP would be required to pay \$28,000 with the balance of \$378,000 paid by the grant. That means for every \$1.00 of our money spent we gain about \$14.00 in additional federal funds. A few years from now (or sooner) when we do not have to pave Blackhawk Trail, we can use the savings for other projects. It is not difficult to see why we had to pur-

sue these stimulus funds for this project. Although there are a few more approvals to obtain before we have a lock on the grant, the plan is to complete this project this fall (2009).

I am delighted to announce that we had a positive response to my call in the last issue of *Smoke Signals* for additional volunteer docents at the Heritage Center Library. We welcome and thank IHP residents **Angelo Christopher** and **Selma Ivan** who have joined our hardworking staff of Heritage Center Library docents.

For some fun with the kids, please join us on **April 11th at 11 a.m.** for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** in Blackhawk Park featuring the **Easter Bunny**! Immediately following the egg hunt, we are pleased to present a magic show at the gazebo starring "**Yahoudi the Great**"! See you there.

Finally, **April 7th is Election Day**. Elsewhere in the *Smoke Signals* you will find profiles of our trustee candidates. Please take the time to cast your ballot in the election. Our democracy is founded on the principle of self-government. Our Nation celebrates our Independence and democratic form of government in July but I think a strong argument can be made for honoring our democracy in April as well. The American experiment in democracy began when the first shots were fired at the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775 as memorialized in Emerson's words about the "embattled farmers" who fired the shot heard 'round the world'. As we know, a key component in this "experiment" is our right to cast a ballot to select and demonstrate support for our system of government. On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, we all have an opportunity to vote for the candidates of our choice for local governmental office. Please cast your ballot in this election. Even if it does not seem so important to you, I can assure you, it is very important to maintain the fabric of our community. We are all indeed "Neighbors" and we are in this together!

Thank you for your support in allowing me to serve as your Mayor!

Richard S. Andrews

Smoke Signals

Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach
(708) 246-7099, extension 101
kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Volume 41, Number 10

Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is April 21, 2009.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
(708) 246-3080
www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor: Richard S. Andrews

Trustees: Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept. Non-Emergency 246-4534
Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 352-9229
Emergency 9-1-1

The advertisements and notices of privately sponsored events or activities contained in Smoke Signals are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Village of Indian Head Park, its officials or employees. The inclusion of a product advertisement or notice of a privately sponsored event or activity herein should not be construed as an endorsement by the Village of that product, event or activity.

Introducing Candidates for Village Trustee

April 7, 2009 Election

Deborah A. Anselmo, Trustee Candidate

Indian Head Park resident for 19 years.

Occupation:

Commercial/Residential real estate transaction closer 27 yrs

Education:

Graduate of Mother McAuley High School and University of St. Francis

Public Service:

- Served as Judge of Election for the Cook County Board of Elections
- Served as Commissioner for the Indian Head Park Planning and Zoning Commission
- Presently serve as Trustee for Indian Head Park

Family:

For nearly 21 years I have been married to Tom, who works as an attorney at his law firm, Freedman Anselmo Lindberg & Rappe. Together we have two daughters: Brittany, a sophomore at the University of Illinois, and Bridget, a senior at Lyons Township High School.

My concerns and goals as Trustee are as follows:

In this upcoming term, one of my main goals along with my fellow trustees, is to continue to focus on responsible spending especially in this economically challenging time. I will also continue to try to maximize our revenues. Due to our limited size, the Mayor and Board of Trustees must be careful to stay within our means and not outspend itself while finding ways to meet our goals. I will also look for cost-effective ways for the Village to utilize any funds made available through the stimulus package in order to complete projects like resurfacing roads. As always, I will address situations and problems as they present themselves.

I have always appreciated the hard work and dedication that volunteer and elected officials have done for the Village of Indian Head Park in maintaining the beauty and character of our Village. We are all in this together and must work for the common goals of the Village. We need to keep our property values up and our schools performing, as education is a key factor in advancing our Village, State, and Country.

Once again, please join me in the quest to continue these goals with your support on Election Day.

Anne M. Bermier, Trustee Candidate

Background:

Indian Head Park resident for 30 years; Trustee of Indian Head Park for 28 years, gaining experience in building, zoning, code enforcement and police; Certified teacher at St. John of the Cross for 37 years; presently constitution teacher for 7th and 8th grade; Outstanding Teacher Award from St. Ignatius and Nazareth Academy; Who's Who Among American Teachers for 1992, 1996, 2004 and 2006; Illinois Woman of Achievement Award in 2000.

In Conjunction with my fellow Trustees and dedicated residents, I have accomplished:

- Completion of the Ashbrook Development;
- Completion of the Crossroads Retail Development Project;
- Enactment of the Indian Head Park Tree Preservation Ordinance;
- Implementation of Southwest Central Dispatch
- Adopt a Spot Beautification Program;
- Additional traffic control signage in Acacia and reduction of speed limits to provide for pedestrian safety;
- Trustee liaison to the Indian Head Park Heritage Center;
- Trustee liaison to the Indian Head Park Police Department;
- Chairperson of the Indian Head Park Emergency 911 Board
- Community related events: children's Halloween party, Easter Egg Hunt

As a candidate for re-election, I am concerned about the future of Indian Head Park. Progressive approaches and community civility are of paramount importance, along with preserving the safety of our families, being cost conscious, supporting the completion of commercial developments and maintaining the residential character of our community. I would like to continue my duties as a Trustee because I feel I can provide a service to the residents of Indian Head Park. I will continue to be an active Trustee, attending meetings and listening to the comments of the residents. I will continue to balance people's right vs. good of the Village when making decisions.

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Candidates for Village Trustee continued from page 3

Carol A. Coleman, Trustee Candidate

Indian Head Park resident since 1998

Education:

Visitation High School
Mundelein College

Employment:

Retired in February 2008 after working twenty years for a Chicago law firm as secretary/receptionist.

Affiliations:

- 1993 to present — IHP Village Trustee
- Indian Head Park Woman's Club
- General Federation of Women's Club of Illinois
- 127 Acacia Drive Condo Board of Directors
- Former member of Wilshire Green Master Board

Family:

Married to Terry for 42 years
Children — Becky 40 and Debby 38
Terry, Becky & Debby are CPA's and practice together.
Grandmother of Jack 9 and Marisa 6

Goals for Next Term:

- Funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Money)
- Economic Development to Increase Sales Tax Revenue
- Improving Traffic Flow on Wolf Road
- Funding for Arrowhead Memorial Pointe Park at Plainfield & Wolf Roads
- New Street Identification Signs

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A Message From The Indian Head Park Police Department



Bunco Scam Artists“Bunco Artists” are criminals that often prey on senior citizens because these citizens are trusting, living alone, or have large sums of money available to them. The term Bunco comes from the Spanish word “Banco”, which means bank. Banking scams are just one of many used by these types of individuals. Other scams include, but are not limited to home invasions, burglaries, robberies, thefts, confidence games,

door-to-door, solicitors, home companion scams, telemarketing fraud, fraudulent charity scams, home repair frauds, pyramid schemes, health care frauds, identity thefts, staged auto collision and insurance frauds, lottery scams, real estate fraud, and power of attorney abuse. Many crimes against senior citizens are committed by well organized, transient criminals who evade identification and arrest by operating in various cities and towns under many different aliases. They often leave town before a crime has been discovered or reported. Criminal organizations that prey on Senior Citizens are usually not physically violent in nature. Unfortunately, there have been cases where physical force has been used to achieve their goals. When suspects are apprehended, many victims agree to receiving restitution for their loss and the probation of the offender in order to avoid the stress and inconvenience of a criminal trial. In doing so, these criminals have the freedom to travel to other areas to continue their criminal activity. The well being of our citizens is our utmost concern and we do not take these types of offenses lightly. We are working in conjunction with law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Illinois in an effort to track, apprehend, and prosecute these individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

A Typical Scam

One or two subjects make contact with a homeowner by ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door. They attempt to

distract the homeowner and direct them toward the kitchen with deceptions such as: Faking an illness

- Posing as a utility worker
- Pretending to have a package to deliver
- Asking for paper or pen to leave a note for a neighbor
- Asking if the house is for sale
- Looking for a lost dog or cat

Once the homeowner is distracted, several unseen accomplices will enter the household and explore the house in search of jewelry or currency. Sometimes suspects may hold up a sheet or blanket to mask the entrance and hide accomplices. There is usually very little sign of ransacking since the actors go through the homeowner's items very carefully taking only certain valuables and putting everything else back in its place. After the suspects leave, the homeowner may not even realize that anything has been taken.

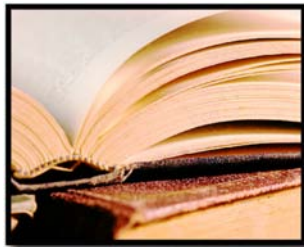
Quick Tips Checklist

Use caution when dealing with strangers – even those who wear authentic looking uniforms and may have a reason for entering the house.

- Be suspicious of strangers offering to share found money or lottery winnings with you.
 - Request and verify identification before letting somebody in your house.
 - Check a company's reputation with the Better Business Bureau.
 - Request a written estimate for repair work. Also, get estimates from other companies before making any type of commitment.
 - Do not invest hastily or rush into a bargain. If it appears too good to be true, it usually is.
 - Ask that you wish to discuss a contract with a lawyer before signing any documents
- When in doubt, call the police!

Heritage Center Library

Want to share a great experience with your best friend? Team up to volunteer at the Heritage Center Library. You can share the hours the library is open or if that is too long a commitment you can split the time. Hours: Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sundays 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. We encourage involvement from our younger adult residents. Your participation is valued. The building itself is an enticement never mind having the time to enjoy browsing thru on the books. Call Jane Kuhn at (708) 246-0293 and she can put you on the schedule.



Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, April 9, 2009

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:
Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:
May 7, 2009

E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:
No meetings scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

Arbor Day Announcement

The Village of Indian Head Park will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Heritage Center located at 6250 South Wolf Road. Public Works personnel will provide information on planting the right tree in the right location. They will also discuss the benefits of planting smaller trees versus larger trees. Tree related pamphlets and Native Illinois tree seedlings will be distributed to those in attendance. The Village of Indian Head Park was named again this year as a Tree City U.S.A. community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the 19th year Indian Head Park has received this national recognition. Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air and conserve soil and water. Additional information regarding tree planting may be obtained on the National Arbor Day Foundation site at: www.arborday.org



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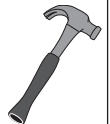
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TEEPEE TOPICS

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park on their academic achievements!

Michael Turk made the dean's list at Lewis University in Romeoville, his major is in physics. **Katherine Bailey** was named to the honor roll at Fenwick High School. **Jillian Sullivan** was named to the honor roll at Montini High School. **Colleen McCollom, Clare Bohne, Anthony Bartucci, Christina Marino, Nora O'Connell, Joseph Pellegrino, Andrew Bartucci and Nicole Yu** were named to the honor roll at Nazareth Academy.

The following students from Pleasantdale Middle School were named to the honor roll: Nicholas Piento, Cooper Hardy, Jaime Duncan, Alexis Gutierrez, Guinevere Nueva Espana.

Highlands Middle School announced the following students who earned honor roll status: Dominica Bendyk, Adam Conrath, Austin Goetz, John Harlow, Tayler Hayes, Leslie Hernandez, Justin Hinshaw, Jeffrey MacDonald, Thaddeaus Rogozinski, Rocco Stefanini, Egle Visgintas, Na-On Weeraklaew, Kelsey Wilp, Jacob Wittenberg, Christina Yelnick, Zachary Carlson, Stephanie MacDonald, Nicholas Katelyn Marino, Liesel Metz, Emily Strohl, Silvia Bendyk, Erin Blaber, Wesley Dekorski, Joseph Drummond, Katilyn Fehrman, Mary Gronke, Taryn Kryza, Mike Mayer, Alexandra Miller, Frankie Nix, Zachery Prinz, Katherine Raleigh, Robert Watkins, Hillary Brannen, Paige Costelloe, Stephanie Countryman, Tyler Giacomelli, Emilio Godinez, Justin Rhiner, Dustin Warf, Karli Fehrman, Phillip Janowiak, Olivia Jones, Anne LeFevour, Tessa Metz, Daniel O'Malley, Jessica Sholler, Alexander Vasti, Oliver Wilp, Jessica Bendyk, Trevor Bouma, Kelsey Corcoran, Jackson Golz, Katrina Kaplarevic, James Kourafas, Kelli O'Laughlin, Dante Stefanini, Matthew Stevens, John Wing, Jessica Wittenberg, Erin Yang and Kyle Yang.

The Pleasantdale Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Pleasantdale Park District Building, 7425 S. Wolf Road, Burr Ridge. Member Jan McFarland will demonstrate some creative ways to decorate and make "Jazzy Pots".

Anyone interested in joining us is most welcome. For further information, call Barbara Stamm at (708) 839-8792.

The Southwest Suburban Center on Aging in LaGrange would like to mention that there are many programs available to Cook County homeowners that can lower the cost of their property taxes to help make it through these difficult economic times. The Center on Aging will provide assistance to seniors to determine if they qualify for various programs. The **Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program** provides savings for qualified seniors by allowing property taxes and special assessments to be deferred on their primary residence. The **Senior Citizen Exemption Program** provides savings to qualified seniors by lowering the value of the residence that is taxed. The **Senior Freeze Exemption** freezes the value of an individual's taxable property. The income limit for this program is currently \$55,000. The **Disabled Person's Homeowner Exemption** provides persons with an annual \$2,000 reduction in the value of the property that is taxed. The **Disabled Veteran's Standard Homeowner Exemption** provides veterans who have a service related disability with an annual exemption of \$5,000 or \$2,500 depending on the disability. To learn more about these programs, please call the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging at (708) 354-1323.

The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting an electronics recycling collection at Triton College, at 2000 Fifth Avenue, in River Grove on April 24th and April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The following items will be accepted: computer equipment, printers, telephones, answering machines, cellular phones, fax machines, TVs and VCRs, stereo equipment, computer software, disks, CD's and Tapes. There is a co-pay of \$5.00 to dispose of televisions and monitors. For further details, please call (708) 453-9100 or visit the following website: www.westcook.org

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